

AN ACCOVNT
O F
OLIVER HILL'S
AGENCY IN SPAIN

at the Post office

in a letter to a friend.

AT LISBONE.

1690.



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ADVERTISEMENT.

HIS letter having been printed where they understand not English, & where the Author was not present to correct it, the Reader will meet with many errors both in the ortography & punctuation & sence, which he is desired to excuse, & to supply himself that which is wanting: also for want of a doble V the Printer hath made use of two single ons.

420.



UNIVERSITY

Noble Sir.

SEEING you vvere so Kind as to concern your self for me in my happiness (as you vvere please'd to term it) you must take your share also of my troubles and misfortunes (as perhaps you and the vworld call the loss of my places) but vvhich, I assure you, vwill amount to no more than to that of perusing this long & tedious letter ; vvhilein I give you, & all the friends of you & me in the noble Clubb, a true and exact account of my Agency in Spain, & of the occasion of my beeing out of it, & of my Post mastership.

In the moneth of December 1690. I arrived at Deale, and after 20. dayes stay, the Queen of Spain appearing in the Dovvns vwith her Convoy, I embr-~~ek~~ed on board the SuffolcK, vvhileof Captain Aylmer vwas then Commander ; & vwent in her to Portsmouth, vvhile I receiued my Commission of Agent; and from Portsmouth to Torbay; & thence, by Major Vvildmans order, to Falmouth by land, to go in the Packet boat vvhich vwas there vwaiting for me, to carry the first newes of the Queens coming to Spain, having got for that purpose Conde Mansfelds, and some other letters to that Court.

In our vway from falmouth the Packet boat
10 took

tooK a prize, vvhich vvas a Portuguese ship loaden
 vwith paper, brandy, vwoollen goods, bound from
 Rochel to the Portuguese Islands; our Captain, Iohn
 EaKines, dispol'd of her at the Groyne, vwithout
 being condemned, made of the ship and cargo about
 1500. pounds, & offerd me hundred pistolls not to
 meddle and make; but I refused them, & gave an
 account of all to Major Vvildman; vvhich, as I have
 heard since, vvas pleased to call me a fool for refusing
 it: & cleered, some say shared, the said EaKines his
 effects, vvhich at his return to England had been
 seizedvpon by the officers of Falmouth for the Kings
 vse; doubtless to avoide himself that vvhich he laught
 at me for in complyance vwith the vwords of Christ
 in another fence, vvhich are of late very vwell obser-
 ved by all them that are concerned vnder him in the
 management of this business of the Packet boats, viz
 qui potest capere capit, nam qui potest, & non capit is a
 fool, according to the prouerb. *Quis nisi mentis inops*
oblatum respuat aurum? But hauing been taught better
 Politick's by Solomon: *I'ho stolen vwaters be sweet, yet,*
my son, eat not honey, saith he, be cause it is sweet, for the
end is bitterness; (as noble Captain EaKines, vvhich
 hath been caught by catching hauing lost his Captain-
 ship, & is as bare as before, hath experien,ed al-
 ready,) I vwould rather be call'd a fool, than be so
 indeed, *Xest' this thiomist more vsyv into it*

On the 20. of march I landed at the Groyne so
me six dayes before the Queen appeared vpon the
coast. Vwhere thô I vvas Agent, & detached besides
from the fleet to bring the nevves of the Queen of
Spains coming, the Vice King denyed me Post, mu-
les, & other horses & conueyance to Madrid, vwhich
I could by no meanes procure vwithout his licence,
thô I offered to pay any price for it. Because he vwould
detayne me vntill the Queens arriuall to send an Ex-
press him self, that he might gett the present vwhich is
vusually giuen on such occasion to him that brings
the first nevves. However having bought mules, &
found meanes to procure Post horses part of the vway
I brought the first nevves, not of her approach on-
ly, but of her safe arrivall to this coastvwhere she ap-
ar'd before I lost sight on't, or vvas gon three lea-
gues & halfe on my journey to Madrid; and I arri-
ued there three houres before the Express vwhich
they dispatch'd to bring the same nevves. My re-
vvard for so doing is to come; for the Spaniards,
vwho are very generous, leaue it to the Almighty; &
thincK that a stonne doublet they gaue me. In Iuly
last, is a competent revvard to his Magestys Minister
for the service don them in that occasion.

Vpon the 29. I arriued at Madrid: & vpon the
30. I presented their King the following memorial
viz.

His Magesty of Great Britains Agent, Oliver Hill,
 vvhho arrived yesterday at this Court, sheweth, that he hath
 been sent hither for two things. One to treat of the settling
 of the new Pofts vvhich the King his master sets vp by sea
 from England to these Kingdoms, to go & come dire ctly
 vvhout passing through France, to the end that the com-
 merce of & the correspondence vvhith that Kingdom may be
 broKen off. As it appears by the said Agents Commission
 vvhich he presents herewith to your Magesty.

Secondly, to bring advise of her Magestis approach
 and arriall to these parts; as appears by Count Mansfelds
 letters from on board the fleet.

And because the said Agent is come to dispatch businesse
 & not to make compliments; and that the settling of this
 concern is a thing that doth require haste, both because the
 mailes for Spain having been already stopt in England, as
 many as shall be sent thither from hence hereafter vwill be
 infallibly lost, to the great prejudice of the English trade
 vvhith Spain, vvhich vwill suffer extreamly & remain inter-
 rupted vvhile delays shall be interposed at this Court: And
 because there are already two Packet boats vwaiting for
 your answere & for the mailes at the Groyne, vvhich, if de-
 layes be vsed, vwill occasion great charges, the said Agent
 desireth to enter vpon businesse, & in to negociation vvhith
 this Court immediately having orders (vvhout prejudice
 notwithstanding to the privileges & rights & immunityes
 due by the use & customs of this Court to such ministers of

Crobb-

Crovvned heads as he is) not to stand vpon any puntos & formalities.

There fore, in the name of the King his master he entreats your Magesty to name and appoint forthwith some persons to treat vwith him. And, as the Posts for France have been stopt already in England, so ~~there~~ they may also be stopt here in Spain; & that the Northern mailes may be liKevvise deliuerd to his order at the Groyne to be carryed to England & other their respective places by the Packet boats, vwhich are now vwaiting at the Groyne for that purpose. To all vwhich particulars he beggs your Magesty's answver as soon as possible. In Madrid the 30. of March 1690.

As soon as I had presented this memerial I vvent about to vwait vpon most of the Grandees vwho vvere then members of the Councel of state, to vwhich it belong'd to take cognizance of this affaire: & deliuerd each of them my rea sons in vwriting, shewving the that it vvas more theirs than our interst to embrace this convey ance. Of vwhich they vvere easily convinced, as they confess'd, yet they tooK 17. dayes to resolute on the business. So that vvas the 17. of April before I could heare of any answver vwhich D. Crispin Botelho their Secretary of state for the North deliuer'd me in vwriting vwith his hand to it, vwhich I haue here traslated in to English, thus.

Having deliuer'd in to the hand of the King my master the Paper vwhich you haue put in to myne, in vwhich

you

you demand that Commissioners be named for you to conferr
 vwith, and adjust, or settle the course of the ordinary Posts
 by sea, to preuent their going any more through France, for
 vwhich demand you haue presented the povver of the King
 of great Britain your master; and that from this time for
 vward the mailes letters for England be delivered to you
 to be transported by the Packe boates vwhich you haue ready
 for this end at the Coruñs: His Magesty hath resoluē that
 I give you to understand from him the firm intent & pur-
 pose vwhich, vpon mature deliberation, he hath taKen, to
 settle this commerce by vway of England. Vvith this prouiso,
 that the letters for Flanders & Germany shall go directly
 from England to Newporth, vwith the intervention of the
 Spanish Minister residing then in London. Vvhich thing you
 are to impart to your Post Master General. And his Ma-
 gesty hath further commanded me to conferr vwith you, &
 vwith Cond^r d'Onatte the Post Master General of these
 Kingdoms about the form & method of settling this vway of
 correspondence because vntill all the points of this new
 form be levellēd & made currant (vwhich vwill not taKE
 vp much time) the ordinary roads of the mailes cannot be
 so suddenly altered. Of all vvhich I give you notice, that if
 you please to meet me, vve may appoint a day for our confe-
 rence. God preserue you many yeares. At Madrid the 17.
 April 1690. Signed, Crispin Botelho.

Having received this answver vpon tuesday, vve
 appointed the fryday followving 20. April for our
 first

first meeting at the Secretaryes office. And because they said nothing of deliuering me the English maile the next day, vwhich vvas Post day for the North, I made a second Memorial to demand it: & it vvas that very day, the 18. of April, granted & deliuerd me. But the Conde d'Onatte, vwho had made it his business, & tooK all the occasions he met vwith to oppole vs; thereby to vveary & beat vs off of our designe, thò I had my self brought him our English maile & deliuerd it to him, vwould not be so civill as to send it to my lodging, or deliver it my man; or forvward it himself by the Galicia Post (vwhich vvent thence that very night, & every vwednesday night about one in the moraing) to the Groyn, but oblig'd me to go my self in person at midnight to the forrein office, there to receiue it, & give a receipt for it, & to get it carryed to the Groyn hovv I could, I vwaited there an houre for the said Condes orders or leave, and hauing at last receiyed the maile, my man car-
ryed it vwith me to the Galicia office, vwhere they tooK it readily & freely enough that time, because the Councels order to the Conde d'Onatte coming out so suddenly & late, he had not the time to give them, as he did since, a charge to the contrary. By this maile I sent Major Vvildman the copyes both of my memorials & of their ansvveres to them, vwith an account of Conde d'Onattes civility, vwhereby he

might vnderstand the state of our businesſ.

About the ſame time our ſecond maile, vviſh
had been brought by the ſecond Packet-boat, being
ſent to me ſealed from the Groyn, they received it;
& opened it them ſelves vvitout my intervention;
& never ſent me my letters vvhich came by it, nor
gave me any notice of the coming of that maile;
tho they provide for them ſelves that their Miſter
in London ſhall intervene not only at the opening
& the diſtributing of their mailes & their letters, but
even at the very paſſage of them through England.

On the ſame day 18. I made, to loſe no time &
to anticipate the day of the confeſce, the following
proposaſſ, & gave them in vwriting to the ſaid Se-
cretary of ſtate, vvhich are as followeth.

His Mageſty of Great Brittain having before
ſufficiently ſignalized his Generoſity & zeale for
the concerns of this Crovyn in convoying the Queen
hither (vvhich cost England five millions of pieces
of eight) is yet vvhilling by an excess of the ſame ze-
ale for the good of this Crovyn in particular & of the
Confederates in general, to make (at ſuch time as
this vwherein he hath need of all his ſhips, & of all
his money) another effort vvhich vwill cost him ſome
hundred thouſand pieces of eight, to fit out, arme,
& maintain Packet boats to bring hither & carry
back to England by ſea all the Northern mailes,

vvhic-

vvithout going any more through the french hands & country.

And thô he might by right pretend that his Catholick Magesty (vvhom it concerns neerer than him, as appears by the reasons his Agent hath given in vwriting to the Lords of the Councel of state, & to some others) should repay him one half at least, of all the money he hath already laid out, & shall lay out hereafter for fitting out Packet boats, besides the half of the charge to Keep & to maintain them, nevertheless to go on as he hath begun, & to contribute more than others rovvards the charge of this vvar, & of vwhat is requisite to maintain the publick cause against the common Ennemy, he is vwillng to yeeld so much of his right & of that he might pretend, as to demand nothing att all for the money vvhich he hath already laid out, & as to content himself vwith the followvng articles.

1. First, to find or prouide as many Packet boats as shall be necessary to transport regularly tvvice a moneth the Northern mailes. Vvhich ships shall be men of vvar of a sufficient force to guard and defend the mailes & to transport them safely in case they be set vpon.

2. That his said Magesty shall alone beare, & sustaine all the loss & the damage of all such Packet boats as shall be cast avvay or taken, & shall alwayes provide others in their room.

3. That his said Magesty shall finde & be at halfe of the charges and expence of the laid PacKet boats, from the time of their first coming out to sea, & so long as they shall continue.

4. That the said PacKet boats shall carry franco from Spaine to England all the mailes & PacKets & Expresses, vwhich his C. M. shall at any time send & dispatch into the North, & shall bring to Spain all those shall come thither from the North: & the said Expresses shall haue their Paslage & that of one seruant free vwith the Kings provision for them selues & for their man all the time they are at sea. Vvhereby his said Magesty vwill save every yeare the charge of those Expresses, & the money paid the French, more than 40. thousand crowns.

5. That the Postage of letters from Germany & Flanders to England shall not be raised, & the said lettets shall pay no further than to London at the vnuall rate: then shall be carryed franco from London as farr as Spain. And in the same manner the letters from Spain to Flanders & Germany shall not pay but from London to Flanders the vnuall price.

6. That all the mailes from the North to Spain shall be deliver'd at the place vwhich the PacKet boats shall come to, into the hands of a deputy of the Post master General of Spaine to be forvvarded & disposed of by him, as the said Post master Gener-
ral

ral shall think it best. And likewise the Packet boats shall there receiue of him the Spanish mailes for the North.

7. That all the Spanish mailes for Flanders & Germany shall be in the same manner deliuer'd at Newvport into the hands of a deputy of the Post master General of Flanders from vvhom the German & Flemish mailes shall also be received, as they vsed to be.

8. That for all these aduantagious offers, conditions, & aduances vvhich his said Magesty of great Brittain makes to this Court, his C. M. or the Conde d'Onatte for him, shall pay no more than one half of the charges, & expence of the said Packet-boats since the time they are employed & for the time of their continuation from yeare to yeare. Vvhich said half shall be limited to the sum of eight thousand pounds sterlinc, or 40. thousand pieces of Eight yearly.

And for the punctuall payment & security of the laid sum his Cath. M. shall assign a sufficient fund, as some branch of his revenue: or allow v an equiyalent of the said sum in granting him some other meanes (vvhich shall be proposed hereafter) capable to ansyver the said half & to indemnify his said Magesty of great Brittain for it.

This paper vvas out of hand sent to Conde

D d'Onatte

d'Onatte, vvhich made in answver to it eleven articles. All vvhich, but the eleventh, signified little or nothing, & for the most part vvere false. For instance, he objected that this designe vvas set on foot by Major Vvildman vwithout the Kings privity; and that Major Vvildman drove it on for his ovn ends, & his private interest, & not for the publicK good.

His last point vvhich vvas the most and only material thing, being that, in case they sent their Flanders maile through England, the French vwould givve no more passage through their ovn coutry to the maile from Italy to Spain, vvh hereby the Spanish correspondence vwith Milan & Naples should be cutt off. To vvhich I made answver that they might as vwell then as they did in the last vvar set vp PacKet-boats liKevvise betvveen Spain and Italy; and that in the mean Vwhile, if the French should stop their maile before those boats vvere ready, they might send it our vvay, viz through England to Flanders, Germany and Italy, & back again the same vvay from Italy through England. But they being vvn-vwilling to alter the vluall course of the Flanders Post till such time as they vvere provided for Italy; and this being one of the chiefe points vvhich their answver to one of my memorials said vvas to be made currant before they sent the German & Flanders maile our vvay, I sent Major Vvildman vvord of it, begg'd

begged his answver ; & to let me know vwhether I should propose to them to set vp and vndertaKe those pacKet boats our selves ; the Spaniards being not fit for it, or at leaft so slowv, that if vve left it to them it vwould putt a great stop to the speedy conclusion & end of our business, nay & go neer to spoil it. That it vvas altogether our interest to doe it, for vve should thereby partly become Masters of their trade, the thing vwould more than quitt cost ; & beare its ovvr. charge , & I found that they vwould readily consent to it. Vvith this letter I sent also my Propositions, vwith my reasons & motives for demanding this money , and not , as my instruccions vvere , the Land Post of our mailes to be in our hands ; and added a vvord or tvvo about money to lufst having yet received none ; for that living at Madrid, & as Agent , vvas chargeable ; and besides, I had then tvwo houses to pay rent for , & tvwo familyes to Keep , viz , one at the Coruña & the other at Lisbon: and over & above this the small concerns I had in both places vvere not able to beare this charge very long , & vvere like to luffer very much by my absence.

Vvhilst these things vvere a doing the Post day for the North, vwhich is every fortnight, came about the second time. And I vvent as before , viz , at midnight or after to the forreine Post office to de-

demand the English maile; vvhich being deliuer'd me I carryed, as before, to the Galicia office; vvhile they vwould not receiue it, alleadging that it did not belong to them to send it, thô they had don it for once; but that hence forth, if I vwould have it go to the Groyn I must send it thither at my costs by an Express; vvhich they presumed I vwould not doe then, for the charge vvas great & the letters few, that maile containing not a bove a hundred letters; & the charge of an Express being a hundred & ten pieces of Eight because Madrid is about a hundred & tweenty leagues from the Groyn. And truly they guessed right; for I considering that the Postage of that maile vwould not amount to ten pounds, that it vwould be in London sooner by vway of Flanders than by the vway of the Groyn, having no Express ready; that it vvas no great matter vvhich vway it vvent for this once; that this happened by their fault; vvhonderd howv the Conde d'Onatte durst attempt it, & howv he could ansver forbidding them to take it (for this vvas vvhout doubt a joggle & a trick of his) & not questioning at all but that I should get redress before the next Post, in faine seeing that money must go out of my pocket, & not knowving vvhether it should come in there again, I forbore to dispatch & to looK for an Express. And being inconvenient for me to detayne the

the maile till after the Post vvhile gone, because of the Kings Packets vvhich I had in that maile, for vvhich, I Knew, they vwould make a great noise the next day, and, as I suspected, vvas one of the things aym'd at by the Conde d'Onatte; I fairly carried bacK the maile to the same office vvhile I had received it, & bid them take care of it, & lend it at their ovvir charge, as it vvas just they should does since their Master received all the benefit of those vvhich vve brought him from England. So I left it vwith them, & vvent to bed it being about two in the morning; and the next day I vvent to the Secretary of state vwith this memorial.

His Magesty of Great Brittauns Agent saith, that having here to fore demanded that if the vvhole Northern maile vvas not as yet to be deliu'red to him, the English maile howver should be deliu'red to his order at the Groyns, your Magesty commanded that it should be deliu'red.

Vvereupon they haue, obliged him to go himself every Ordinary at Midnight to the forrein office, there to receive it, & to carry it from thence to the Gallicis office, vvhich thing he hath nowv don twice; and the first time they tooK it, but te second denied it, bidding him send it forvward himself at his ovvn charges.

And because it is not vvhile to send an Express so farr as the Groyn vwith so few letters as that maile contains; and the Conde d'Onatte receiving the benefit of

our mailes from England, it is just & reasonable he shoulde be at the charge of conveying to the Groyne those that go from hence thither: and these proceedings of the Conde, & of the office, being such indigentyes as the said Agent ought not to beare wwith, & which, thô he hath already suffered them service, in hope to see a quicke end of them & of his Treaty, he will by no meanes submit to any longer.

Therefore he prayeth your Magesty to forbid those unworthy proceedings for the future, & to give your orders to the Conde d'Onatte to take care that the said mailes may be sent every Post to the Groyne at his owne charge, & there deliver'd to Iohn Parquer to forward the same according to the orders he hath from the said Agent. At Madrid, the 4. of May 1690.

The Secretary of State approved this memorial, wvondered at the Conde & the oflices doings; & promised faithfully to send it after the King, wvho wvas already on his wway to Valladolid (wvhile he wwent to meet the Queen) & to get it dispatched.

By this time the Court, Council of State, & oþre Conde wvere gon owt of Madrid to accompany the King, & to wwait vpon the Queen; and Bull feasts wvere preparing ad Valladolid, & Madrid, wvhich wvere to last a wwhole fortnight in each place, during wvhich time wvas to be no dispatch; & my business being none of those wvhich wvere to be the first dispatched, as requiring some time for its con-

sideration, I had no hope of their answver vnder six
 weeKs time. So that seeing no reason for my be-
 ing in Madrid idle & spending all that vvhile,
 vvhich my concerns vwanted me so much in other
 places; at Lisbon, & at the Groyn, vvhich I had
 two hovses & twofamilyes to Keep, viz, my vvi-
 fe & some children & seruants at the first place, &
 my daughter & two maides & aboy at the other,
 vvhich I had brought vwith me: and all my Con-
 cerns being at a stand in both places; besides that
 Master Parker Consul of Gallicia, vvhich had in his
 custody the goods I brought over, did vwhat he
 thought fit vwith them, living vpon the same, stop-
 ping old gaps out of them (for before he had his
 place he vvas gon from the Groyn indebt over head
 & eares) & gave me no account of them, or of any
 thing: and in fine considering that my absence
 hindered not the answver of the Council of state to
 my Proposals; & that if this nevv Project (vvhich
 met vwith opposition from all the Partisans, friends,
 & might of Onatte) should chance to take no effect,
 I might be vndon by it, if I did not looK to the
 main chance at home: and its an vgly figure a man
 makes vvhich goes mumping at Court for his ovvn
 money, vvhich he hath spent it for them, vvhich I
 never vvas taken vvhith; especially in these last yea-
 res of famine, vvhich vwill, I feare, devout the for-
 mer

mer yeares of plenty, & leave the Kings Exchequer
barer than in time of yole: I resolued at last (& it
is vwell I did) during this intervall of their feasts, to
make a trip to Lisbon, & to the Groyne, to looke
after my concerns, & to dispose of my self as pro-
vidence should direct, looking vpon all things in
the vworld as vncertain: and communicated my
designe to Don Crispin the Secretary of state (vwho
vvas no Ennemy to the concern at that time, &
seemed to favor me) and to Don Francisco de Scho-
neberg then Envoy of the states, & lately made Ex-
traordinary Envoy of his Magesty, vwho had don
me good seruice, & shewed himself forward enough
in assisting me, & promoting this designe: both pro-
mised me to take care of all things in my absence, &
to see my last memoriall ansyver'd before the next
Post-day for the North: and both gaue me letters of
favor for Lisbon, to vvit, Don Crispin for the Spa-
nish Embassador there, & Don Francisco for the Heer
Vwolfsen the Dutch Resident. And I left my business,
I mean the drudgery of it, in the hands of a Court
sollicitor for the English, vwith copyes of all my me-
morials & papers to be deliuer'd by him to Master
Strathep Envoy, vwhen he should come to Madrid,
to inform him perfectly of the state of the business;
being by his instructions to assist me in getting the
Land Post in our hands. And so I set forward for

Lisbon: whence I gave a secōd accōut of all by some
ships bound for London, & sent a second copy of my
propositions & motives for demanding money, &
not the land Post: moving for money again for my-
self, & for an answere about the vnderstanding the
Italian PaCker boats, vvhich I could not
go forvvard in the Treaty, & needed not return to
Madrid till it vvas come.

And there, vwhilst I vvas dispatching of my
business, I received Major Vuidmans first letter
since my arrivall to Spain, of the 13 day of May,
vvhich doth begin vwith these vwords. *Viz: I am exced-
ingly satisfied in your care & prudence, in finishing the
Treaty vwith the King of Spain & his Ministers; I can-
not this Post give you my Reflections vpon it, being over-
pressed vwith busness of another nature. But I heartily
thank you, & hope you vwill vwith all the speed you can
get the Post roades settled, & vwhen they vwill let the in-
land Post be in English hands, I vwould commend to you
a friend for some employmēt in it*

I receiued also a letter from Don Crispin the Spa-
nish Secretary, in answver to one of mye, vwherein
I had complainid that the Post Master of the Groyn
had exacted money of Mister Parker (as Parker
had vvrirtt me) to send forvvard our mailes to Ma-
drid along vwith his, vvhich thing he ought not to
doe, so long as Count d'Onatte had the benefit of

them. By this letter he tells me that orders had been given to the said Count d'Onatel to forvward all our mailes, & letters at his ovvn charge. Vvhich I took for granted vvas meant of both our mailes Viz the English from the Groyn, & the Spanish from Madrid to the Groyn, as I did ask in my last memorial, & did not in the least doubt but that my said last memorial had been ansver'd: & that the mailes for England vvere sent currantly from Spain by vway of the Packet-boats. On the receipt of this I vvrote to ParKer to give no more money for conveying our mailes; & that, as soon as they came, he should send vword to the said Post-master to come to him, & to giue him a receipt for them (as they made me doe) before he deliver'd them, and, in case he refused it, to send the mailes by Express to my order at Lisbon. ParKer sent me for ansver, by his of 26 Iune (vvhich letter I haue sent avvay to Major Vvildman, to shewv him ParKers baseness, & to justify my self) that the Post master vvas come, according to my order, & had given him a receipt. Vvhetherin I acquiesced till I came to the Groyn, & asKing for the receipts, found he had none to shewv me; & that the said Post-Master never came, but laught at him. And that he (the said ParKer) had got meanes to distribute & to disperse the letters to all the places of Spain & to recover the Port; vvhich profit, lest he

he should lose by sending the vvhole mailes seald vp to me to Lisbon, as I had vvridd him, made him give me that false advise & information; vvhich is but his vluall vway of dealing vwith all the vworld. But this trick, besides breaking orders; giving false advise, & commiting Robbery, or theft in the Kings business, exasperated so much the more Conde d'Onatte (vvhich is a neere Gentleman, & tvvitted me many times for delivering my self, & not putting in our first maile I brought to him vvhich had been recommended to me by some friends of myne) and supplyed him vwith a plea, & the pretence he vwan-
ted, for sending via Flanders, & contrary to his King & Council of states orders, Keeping our mailes from vs. Seeing that against that vvhich I remained vwith him, Parker pvtloined the mailes, & got the postage from him.

Then my time being neer spent, I left the rest of my business in a merchants hands at Lisbon, & made all haste vwith my vvhife & family to the Groyn, vvhile I came about the first of July (timely enough in conscience to go to Madrid again to continue the Treaty, if Major Vvildman had not put a stop to my journey by the following letters, nay and to the vvhole business even thô I had ne-
ver come out of Madrid) And there met vwith a se-
cond

cond letter of Major Vvildman of the 27. May
vwhich vvas confirmed by his ~~¶~~ of the 10. of June.
In that of 27. vwhere these vwords, videlicet.

You vvere to demand nothing of them, but to deliuer
the letters constantly at the Greyn, & to receive there the
mailes from thence, vunless they vvere pleased to permit you
to establish any way of Inland Postage to any of the tra-
ding towvns of his CatholicK Magesty; but that Proposal
being to be left to their ovvn choice & pleasure absolutely.

In that of the 10 of June vvere the vwords fol-
lowing: Viz I sent you a letter last Post, vvheneof
the Spanish Embassadour had the duplicate to send to his
master, and therein I told you that I Expected no more
than the mailes to be deliuer'd & received. And I must here
say that the Spaniards vwill never pay vs money.

Other things they contained, tending to indu-
duce me to yeeld to Count Onatte; If any disgust
(saith he) be giuen or taKen by the Conde d'Onatte, I expect
your vtmost Submission: you vunderstand that delays cannot
be born; I am troubled & confounded, you Knovv the res-
pects I haue for you, pray deliuer me out of his trouble. &c.
all these letters, vvhich the fore-going papers I Keep
by me to shewv, if need requires.

These two last, I confess, surprized me very
much, seeing Major Vvildmans style so alter'd on a
sudden; all that I had don spoild, & the vwhole desi-
gns hereby ruined & Knockt in the head. O quam

In a short abvysse syde hauyng vvhichme but no or ha.
 dayes before. For on the 13 of May the 11.1.1.
 exceedingly satisfiued vvhith my prudencie; and by
 the 27 he takes it for granted vvhithout considera-
 tion that I vnderstoode not, or had fer got ther-
 eandor whichs I was sent upon. Vvhatever the master
 said I? Is there money in the case? or hath Col de
 d'Onate, seeing he could not make a fool of me,
 sent to try his fortune vvhith my Master? and by gi-
 wing him good wrodys & misrepresenting the sta-
 te of our busyness, coaxt him into this good mood
 & fit of relaxation? We are like to thrive indeed, &
 to give a good account of our negociacon; if I go
 to give all awaies & make our King serue the Spa-
 nish Post master General at his ovn charge, vvhilst
 he, the said Post master, by meanes of the Packer
 boats, shall have every yeaer above fifty ghoes and
 Crowns, he and Taxis pay to France. Vnchargeles &
 no returns issone of the King's intent. If my Master
 will do this, lewhim doest it by him self; as for me,
 manu non emulcitur in sollicitate, if I go to doe ga before I
 see the longe & sudden orders conffititute me in
 bona fide. Therfore I ansuyvered to his two said last
 letters, the samel thonges in substance, sas shewys folldyng
 Paragraffs vnhinnes, to vvhich he is nowe bad
 -over ed. That he fore I went to obey his laid or-
 der; I made bold to tell him, that I was afraid he
 was

had been misinformed: and vpon that supposition I
 assured him again that we were like to obtaine so
 me money of the Spaniards, and I had no small ho-
 pes to make vwhat he gaue away for nothing
 vroth my vwhile to stay a little vwhile to endea-
 vour to get it, because the Council of State, vwho vre-
 st the masters of it (& not Conde d'Onatte) said
 (or at least some of them) that they thought it rea-
 sonable their Master should contribute on his side to
 vwards the charge of our newl Packet boats, chiefly
 because by their means Spain should have all the
 great summs vwhich they pay to France yearly, and
 because they were convinced that it was more
 their interest than ours to have this way established
 through England. And since vpon that account they
 had yelded the main thing, viz. all the Northern
 mailles to go & come our way, they vould without
 doubt of course grant vs the accessory. And that
 they had money for vs as vwell, as for France, is
 somet. This since there was ground to hope (for
 something, vhat vwhich he thus gaue away was
 worth something, & more than he imagined) And
 therefore thought my self bound in conscience to
 tell him so, & prayed him to consider that, if he
 had given me order to sell an estate vorth eighteene
 thousand pounds for six or seven hundred, he vvo-
 uld not take it ill at my hands if I did tell him that

it is vworth more, before I sold it so; but vwould rather take it ill if I had sold it so before I told him out. 3. That it vvas not vwith Conde d'Onatte I treated, but vwith the King him self & vwith his Councel of state, Onatte being no more than defendant in the case, vwho must, vwill he nill he, pay, if condemned to doe it by his Judge the said Councel. And supposing the Councel could not oblige him to it, & conuert to our vse the money he payes to France, yet vve might obtaine of them other things equiualent to the sum I asked, nay more than equivalent, because they might be improved; & might easily be had because they know not their vworth, not making the most of them. Of vwhich things I Knewv two: but the vway to obtaine them vvas not to give over all our Right & pretensions.

4. That if Onatte believed that he could avoide paying, & did not rather perceive he must at last come to it, he had not sent after him (Major Vvildman) in England, to stopp him vay vay gründen

*Scilicet is superis labor est, ea cura quietos indec
et vobis vobis sollicitas, non sumus nisi vobis.*

5. Those Grandees of Spain who vwill not repay the Visits of an Envoy, laugh at vs, & vwould leave vs to spend our time in vaine vwithout troubling them selves to run & seek after vs but for their own ends only. I dare say this

his Conde wwould not taKE so much notice of vs & our desygnes, as to put vpon vs the triKs he hath seru'd vs vwith, to vveatly & beat vs of, vvere it not that I hold here his nose to the grindstone; and this hath made him to seeK for relief, vwhich he hath found. Vwhat a brave sum of money I might nowa get of him to conclude vpon the termes vwhich you haue granted him by your duplicate, said I? farr from standing in need to submit my self to him, as you order me to doe: and if I should doe it vwould but helpe to make him vvorse. He vvill never yeeld vs any thing by his good vvill; therefore re-
sist the devill, is the vvay to treat vwith him.
That, as for my instructions, they being in generall; to strive to obtaine some thing, my duty vvas, even vwithout instructions for it, to endeavour to get it, & to tender the interest & the good of the concern, & of them that employed me, & to drive it on as farr as I could make it go, & to give nothing avvay therefore of vwhat I had any prospect to obtaine, ~~uppon vs~~ as vwould irregulare me.

That my said instructions (tho they vvere by vword of mouth) none att all in vwriting, the ma-
nagement being left vwholely to my discretion) vvere in particular the very same as My Lord shreel vwsbury had vwritten by me to Mistr: Stanhop, & in-
sisted a gree vwith them, since he vwas to assist

me

she in my Treaty & demands. Now his (which are to be seen) are positive to demand & to insist upon having the inland Postage of the mailes per Packet-boats to remaine in English hands, therefore my instructions were also to demand this thing. And his letters of 13. of May mentioned before shewes he took it for granted that my instructions were such, & seeing that they were such, I could not treat without making the demand of it, or of some other thing for it, & instead of it. ~~which do not offend the other party~~

¶ That if my said instructions had been such as he affirmed, viz, to demand no more than only the receipt & the delivery of our mailes in the Groyne, it was needless to send me to treat, to make me Agent, & Post Master, & grant me power and authority (as by my Commission of Post-master I had) to erect new stages, & constitute Deputyes, & allow them salaryes. For so long as they were to be served for nothing, & by the barguine to get the monies they pay to France, when it is their interest besides to send their letters our way, & not through France, ~~as~~ a single letter from their Embassador in London was more than sufficient to finish this whole Treaty, as meeting on neither side with any difficulty, since one could not wish for one more than what the other offered. And as for receiving & delivering the mailes, any Post boy might do that, or

some of the Penny Post deputyes, or the Captains of the PaCket-boats them selves.

¶ That if the demand vve vvere to make of the in land Post vvas to be left to their choice ~~or~~ pleasure absolutely, it vvas bootless to make it, the Spaniards giving nothing vwhen they see they can keep it. And vvas but such another compliment to our selves as our PaCket-boats are, vwhich make a great noise abroad, spend a great deale of money, to go vnder the notion of the Spanish PaCket-boats, but instead of mailes from Spaine, & of Gold & Iuory, as Solomons navy brought, bring only fevv Peacockes stayles.

¶ That since it is evident I had never before received such instructions as vvere in his duplicate, 't vvas not kindly don of him to impose vpon me those things he knew never vvere. And to make our greatest Ennemyes & opposers, vwho wwould faine Gundamore him, & sir Walter rauelinge me, the bearers of that paper vwhereby he exposed me & gave them the greatest advantage imaginable; putting tools into their hands to defeat all that vwas don; & could be proposed & don by the aftervvards. Vici ill Count d'Onatte! all thy former endeavours against vs vvere as it vvere but somanv light scratches, but this act of our own Post-master cuts very deeply, stabbs the designe to the heart, & gives it a deadly vound!

dition. That being to aske a thing, & having
 very little or no hopes to obtaine it, finding in every
 one such generall averseness against that thing (to
 vvit, the inland postage of the mailes in English
 hands) that they not only told me that they vwould
 never grant it, but exclaimed against it vpon the
 least motion or vword I made of it; & had yet don it
 much more if they had considered that this demand
 included all the mailes from the North vvhich (as it
 had been granted me by the Council of States an-
 swer to my memorial) vvere to goe via England.
 And from the exception they made in the grant the-
 reof, viz, that their Minister in London should in-
 tervene at the very passage of the said mailes
 through England, one might easily gather, since
 they vwould not trust vs there, that they vwould not
 trust vs here vwith the management of them; I say,
 having no hopes to get any thing this vway, I
 thought that the best vway & method I could take
 to bring the business to beare vvas to let that string
 vntouch't, & to demand some money, or some thing
 equivalent for it, as vvas propole. Kings send not
 their Ministers to doe vwhat cannot be don, but to
 see vwhat may be don, & to make the most of that
 vvhich they perceive is feasible. Therefore they
 should never send their errands but by the hands of
 such as see in seeing, & know how to go to
 yvorck;

vvorcK; if they employ other men, let them take
vwhat comes of it that is, mis carriadge & loss: Prover.

26.6.

That vwhen I sent him copy of my Me-
morials, & of the propositions I made to the Spani-
ards, I gaue him vvith them my reasons for so doing
& going this vway to vvorCK: therefore since he
had the first, he must needs haue the second, & vvas
no stranger to it: And supposing it vvere not sati-
factory to him, howver he dought not to give it
thus against me, nay against the King himself, in
behalf of the Spaniards, vwithout hearing me further;
& dought not to have made them the bearers of his
sentence, but me that vvas sent to treat; for that vvas
to take from me, & to transferre to them all the
powuer of treating; & give them encoragement
to go from, & recall that they had already yeelded, &
fly higher, & attempt to put vpon vs those things
vwhich before they durst not so much as flatter them-
selves vvith the hope & the thoughts of. That it vvas
indeed the vway to make a quick end of all, of the
Treaty, Post-maister, & Packet-boats all at once; but
that he should shortly see vwhat point he had got
hereby to vwards a good conclusion, & vwhether
Onate vwould now vbefriend the designe. Alasse
he looks vpon it as a meer Engins set vp to batter
him to ruine, & therefore hath shewed himself vpon

26.6.7

all

all occasions its implacable Ennemy, & raised the posse of all his friends against it even for six moneths before I appeared to treat, & hath eversince vied all meanes possible to breaKe it: having, notwithstanding this Boon of Major Vvildman, Kept from vs the English mailes, tho against his Kings orders; & seized here in the Groyne vpon all English letters, & began suits at law vwith the Consuls at Sevill, at Cales, & at Malaga for distributing of some. In fine he vwould shortly see that this great Kindness of his vwould serue for nothing att all but to enable Onatte to plague vs, & maKe him vvorste. Vvhereas if he had not been so hasty, he might haue sped better, for vve might haue got 30. thousand crowns a yeare to helpe Keep the PacKet-boats: or at least, in lieu of it, some nevv grant or priuiledge either for the PacKet boats, or for the goods they should bring; or for the English merchants of the factoryes in Spain, & concluded the business vpon the nevves of the Kings success in Ireland this yeare; vwhich had made the Spaniards (vwho till then vvere vvavering) come to a resolution if vrg'd in that neK of time. Hovver it neither stopt nor retarded the business to asKe a sum of money, because there vvere certain points to be resolved vpō before the said Council. Vwould order vs the Northern mailes; such as vvas that concerning the Italian PacKet boats, vwhich requi-

as much time alone as the vvhole Treaty & vwould not be decided vnder ttwo or three moneths time.

12 That the 40 thousand crowns I demanded of them vvas a sum much inferior to those vwhich they pay to France, & spend for their Kings Packets & their Northern expresses: & vwas only proposed, never insisted vpon: because they have to this day demanded no abatement; nay, nor so much as replyed: by reason that he (Major Vvildman) had generously abated them the vvhole sum; & so saved them the trouble both of replying & treating fur-
ther vwith me.

13 That for all his vword given to Don Pedro Ronquillo vwhen he deliverd him his copy or duplicate, hemight come off vwell enough by laying the fault of all vpon me & my temper, alleadging that I am a cross grain, vwill fwall fellow vwho vwould obey no orders, & vwhat he thought fitt besides, & I vwould beare it all. If this vvere not sufficient he did not vwant specious & plausible pretences to pick a quarell vwith them. Such as vvas (1) their Keeping & deteyning our mailes from vs contrary to their Masters positiv orders, (2) their hauing put an affront on our King by sending me to prison vwhen I vwas his agent (as shall be said hereafter) & hauing as yet made him no satisfaction for it, (3) Cöde d'Onatte neither Keeping vword vwith vs nor ceasing

ceasing to molest vs & to obstruct the designe; and
hauing grossly abused him (Major Vvildman him
self) in the answere vwhich he had made to my propo-
sitions; saying that Major Vvildman had see this de-
signe on foot vwithout the Kings auctorite, & for his
owvn ends only, & not for the publick good of the
Confederacy, vwhich things not knowing before
(vwhen he shewved himself so kind & generously
given) he did not then, but might now shew some
relement of them: & vvas no more obliged to stand
to the vword he gave vpon a supposition that they
Kept vwithin the bounds of civility vwith vs. Some
other such expedients I suggested to him by the hel-
pe of vwhich he might have come off honestly & fa-
irly, as I thought.

14. That he Knew he had many envious and
ennemyes vwho vwould be glad to catch att any
plausible pretexe to justle him out of his place; for
vvhose sake he ought to take & observe other me-
asures: At least ought to satisfy our Envoy at Ma-
drid, Master Alexander Stanhop, vvhich had orders as
vwas laid to assist at the Treaty; And Monsieur de
Schoneberg also the other Envoy; both vwho must
needs come to know all that should be transacted.
And as these his last orders vvere different from the
said Master Stanhops instructions; & against the
Kings interest, it vvas a question vwhether Master

Sta-

Stanhope would consider vwithout I shewed him
 sufficient warrant for it vwhich it vvas necessary
 for his safegard & myne he shoud procure & send
 me before I proceeded. V 10:30 AM 1610
 That after all, if he were resolv'd to stand
 to his word, & vwould have no more of them than
 what he said, vizi the mailes deliuer'd & received, it
 vwas nobly don of him, if the King allowed of it:
 that I vvas for my part ready to obey blindfold; but
 before I obeyed I begged three things of him. (1)
 his oowne confirmation of his orders in good forme.
 (2) his answver, vwhether we should vndertake the
 Italien Packet boats, or leavethem to the Spaniards.
 And (3) either money, or credit vpon Madrid;
 vwithout vwhich I coul not go forward in the Tre-
 aky. He could not but understand, that it vvas not
 possible for me to live & drive on such business in
 Madrid vwithout expence of money; & he Knew I
 had serv'd already neer a twelf moneth & had yet
 received none: and to lend me vwithout it vpon such
 errand as this, vwhich vwas opposed by one of the ri-
 chest men in Spain (vwhere money makes the maile
 go) vwas to send me a poor crippe against a mighty
 gyant, & to cut off the feet, & hazard the loss of all.
 So much for this Retronstrance. It is all about
 the Cart. When the Cart must lead the horse, & the horse
 vwill not be led things are like to go on vwell. I am
 sure

sure I vvridd to him by sea and byland these things & great many more; I represented & argued the case vwith him: I chidd, I complainid: and the horse vvo- vld not beled, but, instead of being led, thought to overset the cart. For it seemes the hope he had to prosper by his ovvn vway; or the feare that Don Pedro Ronquillos cryes against him vwould make a greater noise at vvhitehall than my letters. (vvhich he hath all broKen open since at the office, vvhenn my hand appeard on them) preuaild vwith him against me. But as abigg-belyed vvench, thincKing to cover her sin by destroying her dumb fruit comes thereby to the more publicK disgrace & mischief, ^{the feare of a man} bringeth a snare vpon him. Prov. 29- 25. so it vwill appeare in time, & in avery short time, vwhether his crushing of me to keep me vnder hatches that my voice may not behard, vwill remaine buried vwith me in silence and oblivion. Harpocrates stand his friend

*Da fallere, dasanctum iustumq; videri,
Noctem peccatis, & fraudibus eius objice nubem.*

*The vwicked is in darcKness & Knowves not at vwhat
he fumbles. Prov. 4- 19. & often to save him self runs
his neck in the halter.*

He did put off his ansuere to the three things in question from one post to another till the middle of September: vvhenn there came in steed of it along

letter of complaints, he said, vvere made against me, but vwhich he then made him self. One vvas that I vwould haue raised an estate forme vwithout the Kings priuity by asking such great sum of money of the Spaniards. As tho I could my self haue ratified the Treaty, & Kept the Kings Ministers from Knouing vwhat it containd. Another vvas that I Spent, & preacheſd for more money than the Post office could beare; vwhen I had not as yet received a single penny; & a third, that I foretold the decadence or dovvn-fall of the present gouernment; as tho I vvere a Vwitch, or criminal for telling vwhat I see vwith my eyes, & vwhat every body vwho is not vwillfully blind, doth see as vwell as my self. And concludes,

To make an end, tis of absolute necessity that you resolute vwith your self vwhat you vwill doe vpon the vwhole matter; tho you say you vwill thank me to dismiss you; I must haue the business settled, & all the Spanish letters come entirely this way: and I must haue no delays in it, vwho ever I shall be forced to employ to doe it. I am just vpon concluding vwith Prince Taxis, then I must haue no stumbling at Madrid. I shall say no more till the next. I am,

Your hearty friend that intended your seruice in your
seruing the King & the Realm. I ^{Good man! his ze} for his Country & country hath uerton h
This is the vway he found out to answver my
three demands: perhaps thinking I vwould vpon
the

the receipt of this, run presently to Madrid, & doe any thing rather than be turn'd out of my place, or overlet by the horse. But the cart is a strange cart, & vvas vveary of his load, therefore he threvv down the load, & put it vpon the horse, vvhich, being loaded before vwill go neer to break his back: so the cart got cleere again of the horse, & vvent alone as he vs'd to doe before he vwas concern'd vwith the horse. My meaning hereby is that the Post master General thought to leau me in the lurch, but I, to prevent it sent him back my Commission vwith the following letter, thus leaving him to answver for all the miscarriages that should happen aftervvards; vvhich, being ~~no more~~ concerned, cannot be laid to my charge. My letter to him vwas this.

Sir, as you generously bestorred the place vpon me, so I doe freely return it to you vwith thancKs, & send you back my Patent or Commission for the Post. My other of Agent being in the Spanish Secretary of states hands, as is vjauall at this Court, I cannot send vwith this. I Know your meaning full vwell; & could helpe all this; but it is not worth my vtrouble. So, vvhishing both you, & your Lady prosperity; & that the next you employ may serve you as faithfully as I, I remaine.

Vvhilst I vvas vwriting the said Remonstrance to him, I did also vwrite to Don Crispin Botelho the Spanish Secretary pressing him for an answver to my said

said Propositions. And finding, vwhen I came to the Groyn, no English maile vvas sent to vs from Madrid (for by reason that ParKer had vritten to me that the Post master vvas come & had giuen him a receipt & never advised me of the failvre of the mailes, I Knewv it not till then) I, taKing no notice of Major Vvildmans orders, sent to Master Sta[n]hop the following Memorial to present it in his name, or myne as he should thincK fitt. and sent to the Post master of the groyn to come to me, & to giue me a receipt for our maile vwhen it came. Vvhich, vwhen he refused to doe, I sent the maile my self by Express to Cales, Sevill, & Malaga &c. And deteyned about three vvecKs the Packets of Don Pedro Ronquillo to his master, vwherein I suspected Major Vvildmans duplicate or copy vvas enclosed, to give Master Sta[n]hop time to get an ansvver to my Memorial before the said duplicate came to their hands, My said Memorial vvas thus.

*His Magesty of great Brittains Agent shewes your Magesty two things. One, that your Magesty hauing since the 12. of April last concluded & resolued in your Councel of state to settle the correspondence of the Northe[m] letters & mailes by vray of England, & named & appointed Co[m]missioners to treat with him, he immedately made him some propositions; to vwhich it is aboue three moneths since he sollicites an ansvver, but by reason of the many & ground
less*

leſſ delays vvhich the Post-maſter Generall of your Kingdoms occaſioneth from day to day, he hath not been able to obtaine it.

The other, that the ſaid Agent, in hope to ſee a quicK and ſpeedy end of his negeſtation, hauiing ever ſince the 26 of March laſt ſent to Madrid all the Mailes he hath received from England, & received for them neither carriadge nor Postage, nor other mailes for England, the ſaid Maſter Generall of your Post hath not only enjoyed the vvhole benefit of them & of the money the ſaid Agent hath laid out & paid to the Post-maſter of the groyn to ſend them him, but hath alſo to enjoy this benefit the longer) uſed all his endeauours to protract the ſaid Treaty, & to break off & ruine vtterly the vvhole deſigne. As appears by deteyning & ſending the English mailes by vway of France & Flanders, after hehad your orders to ſend it by the vway of Galicia and the groyn.

And as it is not reasonable that the ſaid Post-maſter Generall enjoy alone, during theſe long delays & obſtaclcs of his ovvn, the benefit of the Postage of the ſaid letters, when his Maſteſt of great Brittain continues alone to be att all the charge & coſts of the PaCket boſts: nor that his ſaid Maſteſt continue to beare the charg vvhout certainty of ſuſceſſ in this Treaty, or vvhout Knowning vwhether he ſhall obtaine the chief end vvhich he doth aym att hereby, viz, the ceſſation of all commerce, & correſpondence of letters throovngh & with France, vvhich continues, may

goes on more briskely than formerly.

Therefore the said Agent hath orders (1) to press for an answer to his said propositions, & for the speedy conclusion of his Treaty. (2) to desire your Magesty to command your Post-master Generall to make good vpon acco-unt to the Post office in London the Postage of the letters he hath alreadly received, & shall receine hereafter vntill the finall conclusion of his Treaty, refering to himself so much of it as is vsualy paid him for their Post by land from hence to other towns & places of these Kingdoms. And since it is evident by the frequent and constant passage vwhich two Packet boats haue alvvayes had hitherto, that this correspondence is both frequent & certain, & vwill proue such yet much more vwhen more than two Packet boats are employed in this concern (against the objection made by the Conde d'Onatte, to stop the settling of it) to demand also (3) that all the Northern mailes be at last deli-uered to him, as vwas promised. To vwhich three things he addes this, viz. that vntill this be don Conde d'Onatte be made to conform to your former orders by sending this vway all our English letters; & none by vway of Flanders. And to these four things he prayes your speedy dispatch. In the groyn the 16. of July 1690.

This vway I proceeded in hope that Major Vvildman vwould take some of my aduise, & that this Memoriall vwould be dispatched before the newnes of his duplicate came to Conde d'Onarte; and

and all the while betwene the receipt of his two letters, I meane that of complaints & that where he gaue the Spaniards this duplicate, viz, from June to October, date of my abdication, being in expectation of his positive answere to the three things in question, I was forced to spend that time, labour, industry which should haue been spent vpon carrying on this designe, in making of excuses to both the Secretary of state and Master Stanhope who wonderd at my long stay, & wrote me I turnd my back to my Commission; for without Major Vvildmans answere I could not go forward in our Treaty, neither could I appeare at Madrid vwithout treating: hauing but one way to vitt, either to yeeld according to Major Vvildmans orders, & desist of my demands; or else to take no notice attall of his duplicate; and tell them I treated not by Virtue of his but of the Kings Commission; which thing I wwould not doe, but Kept the true reason of my detension from them being altogether vnviling to expose him, tho he had exposed me by putting into their hands the duplicate above said. Nay that I was forced to bestow my time in contriving excuses for him to the Spanish Court & the factoryes in Spain (which were earnestly pressing for a speedy conclusion, & were very uneasy by reason that their letters were longer in their passage to their hands than

than formerly, being often deteyned at the Post house in Madrid & retarded othervvise by Onattes contriuance) & in arguing vvith him, in disputing of principles, in contriuing for him that vvas to contrive for me every thing conduing to the better gouernment & settling of this concern; for those things vvere committed vwhich ought not to haue been don, & those things vvere committed vwhich ought to haue been minded, & there vvas no wealth in vs. Every one vvas a King; the Captains & the seamen thought the PacKet-boats their ovvn, & the freight, & the prizes, vwould take no goods vpon freight, Kept the ship for their ovvn goods, & vwould run after prizes, & vwhen they had taken some, spent their time in disposing of them, vwhilst the merchats vvere ill serued & complained as tho I had been he that deteyned their letters; and every time they came, nothing but nevv occasions of discontent & quarrells: so that I vvrpte and directed my letters for him to Madam Vvildman that she might peruse them all & put him daily in minde of the things I vvrpte: & vvas vvaithing vvith patience, & bore the bvrden of all, the Spanish Court, the merchants, the PacKet-boats & himself vpon my bacK, his errors & his failings to redress & to conceal, Conde d'Onattes tricks to oppose & to defeat, ParKer, Givins & such other vnderhand deling Rascalls

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trea-

treacheryes to vwatch against, & no money all the
 vwhile; vwhen, behold, the said scolding or complai-
 ning letter came; and the next Post after, afart
 vorse to make amends, vwith My Lord Notting-
 ham's letter, vwhich he had procured; to acquaint me
 that the King vwould hanel me all no longer as Agent, being
 bightly displeased with my late proceedings; My Lord
 meant in the business for vwhich I vvas sent to Pri-
 son in Italy last. And that same business vvas thus: I
 blee. Vve vvere eight or ten at dinner in my ova
 house, Parker the Consul vwas one, & Cliess nevly
 made Captain of one of the Packet boats, & vwho
 had brought in, and sold a french prize, vwas ano-
 ther; vwhen there came into the room, & vp to the
 very table an ordinary fellow, a Spaniard, vwith
 his hat on; & talKed & druncK vwith both Parker
 & the said Captain. I tooK notice of his rudeness in
 coming in thus; & besides vwithout my leave, vvi-
 thout Knocking at the door, or calling from the
 staires, as the custom of the place requireth, even in
 the meanest mans house in the toun; but not Knole
 vving vwhat he vwas, & thicKing he came to drive
 some barguin vwith the Captain, vwhose sport I
 vwould not spoil, & not minding vwhat they said,
 because I vvas then in discourse vwith another, &
 did not vwell understand the Spanish Gallego tongue,
 I thought to pass it by; vntill Parker directing to
 me

me his speech in English, said he vvas an Escriuan (that is, such an officer of justice, as a sergeant) & that he had notifyed the said Captain at my table, & vwill you take it, said he. ~~and he did not say~~ Vvhile vpon considering the manner vvhich he came in, & his savvcy behauour, & his taKing no notice at all of me all the vvhile; & ouer & aboue this notifying the Captain in my house vwithout my leaue, concluded that it vvas done on purpose to affront me: & thought, if I tooK this, they vwould put more vpon me, & maKe at last nothing of me & my Priviledge; vvhich I vvas to maintain, as vwell as the respect vwas due to my Character; one of the ends & intents for vvhich I vvas made publicK Minister being (at least as Major Vvildman vwrote me by his of the 28 January) to maKe my house & the goods that came by the PaCket boats sacred (they are his ovvn vwords) and therefore I could not ans^{wer} vvhile taKing this affront vwithout resentement of it; but vwithall did consider that if I did drub him I should hereby pull dovn an old house about my eares, *excitare crabrones*, stirr vp a vwhole mobile of Justices, vvhio are proud, absolute, vncontrouled, & potent, all Spain over; so that I thought it best not to meddle vwith his person; & called to him & tooK a paper out of his hand (vvhich proved to be that of the notification) & taring it to the middle, I gave it him

him again, bidding him make another, & learn to pay more respect to the King of Englands Ministers, another time, whose house was not the high way, nor a tavern to come in, & drinke in, & notify any body without leave. So without any more words or adoe he went away to complain to the ViceKing: and I went after him my self to complain also; desiring Parker to go with me, but he, thô he readily waits upon all the Masters of ships thither, would not go.

Being with the ViceKing he told me his order was on the back of that paper, & that it was his order I had torn: I said, that the question was not whether it was his order; but whether the Edrivan had power to affront me, & to notify a man in my house and at my table: I hoped he had not given him such an order; therefore, if he had neither power nor order for it, he ought to be punished, & in his Majestys name I came to demand it: that as for any respect which his order might challenge, it had not been lost by me: for so long as the fellow told me neither what he was, nor what he came to doe, nor by whose order he came, his order was not abused, nor concerned in the case; and that he had set his hand & order to that paper, (as he doth to all other diligences thole men make) not *quatenus* ViceKing, but only *quatenus* he is Judge Conservator of the

English & the Dutch, therefore it was not the Vice-Kings, but the Judge Conservators order vwhich I had torn; & so his Vice Kingship ought not to inter-
vene here. Now what power, said, hath the Judge Conservator, nay the Vice King himself, to infringe
my Priviledges, & to put an affront of this nature
vpon me. If he tooK that vpon him, I might, I con-
ceive, take vpon me to maintain the respect due to
the King of England whom I seru'd, vwho vwould in
due time & place vindicate my proceedings, & re-
venge the injury don to him in my person. Hearing
this, he asKEd me vwhat priviledge I had: I replied,
you know it: and you cannot pretend ignoranc
of vwhat bain: for I did shewv you the day that I lan-
ded, the Commission I haue, & you saw it, nay &
read vwith others, some part of it: & your self did
then advise Don Crispin Botelho the Secretary of it.
But that his Excellency might be left vwithout excu-
se, I pull'd out a paper, vwhich vwas the Council of
States answver to my Memorial vwhereby it appeared
that I vwas admitted for a publick Minister, and ac-
tually in treaty vwith them & vwith his Master(But he
vwould reade none of it, & so I tooK my leave, &
came home & dispatched the maile, & the Packet
boat, advising Major Vieldmans, & My Lord Secret-
ary Shrewsbury of all these things; as also Master
Scanhop: not misouling in the least, that the grutch
vwhich

which I Knew the Vice-King did beare me for
getting Post horses to Madrid notwithstanding his
attempt to prevent it, wwould go so farr as it did.

But as soon as the said Packet boat was vnder
sayle, vwhilst I was writing these things to M^r Stanhope, there came an officer vwith some souldiers
to my house, vwho carryed me out of it Prisoner to
the Castle (vwhich is but one of their Layles) vther
they Kept me some dayes from friends, pen, inck,
& paper; against the law^r of nations, & vwithout any
regard to the great obligations vvere lately laid
upon them, then released me vwith some formalit
ties of Justice, pretending, I suppose, that they Knew
nothing of my being the Kings Minister. *Vbhe
there is no King*, saith one, Iudg 17. 6. *all men in au-
thority doe vhat seemes right intheir eyes:* & becom^e
like somany tyrants to oppress the Land: & there-
fore, saith the greatest Politician I Know^r. *Prov.
28. 16. a King that lacketh understanding he is also
a great oppressor.* And Machiavel, his ape, *ogni volta
che un Principe non haverà consiglio è prudenza dase*, he
must needs vwith his subiects become the prey of all
those vwho have places vnder him! Certainly Kings
are not made pro forma onely to vwear the name &
to let others exercise all the power, but to exercise it
them selves over all their people, *& to doe justicethem
selves of all them that doe evill.* Rom. 13. 4. Kings might
do this.

govern by Proxy, if they could give an account to God by their favorites.

My letter to my Lord Secretary Shrevsbury was suppress'd at the Post house, and noble Major Wieldman out of the abundance of his great mercy and truth, and zeal for the service and honor of his Master, instead of taking my part, & representing the thing to my Lord Secretary according to my letters, sides with my adversaryes, turns an Apology for me into calumnyes, & setting on my action such glise as wwould serve his turn, charges me wwith taring & destroying of letters to the Earl of Nottingham (wwho being but nevvly come in my Lord Shrevsburys place Knew nothing of the matter) Ay, and the ViceKings letters; & for abusing the King & the Ministers of Spain: for wwhich I wwas reuak't to give them satisfaction; wwhen they did not expect it, but rather thought that they shold be made to give it them selves, so true to his trust he proved; & so diligent a drudge to the Spaniard, ^{he} he became. O David, ò Oliver! howe for less than this you wwould, if I had been your man, have fwyng'd off these Ammonites! a. Sam. no. 22. q. 2. v. 6. The Kings Agent in prison by a perty ViceKing for defending his Masters honor wwhich wwas invaded! And instead of reselling & revenging the affront, the said honor & Agent must be wurther sacrificed.

erisced. But vwhy not the Kinges honor as ywell as
 his intereste for he vvhio expels no more, for so many
 thousand pounds mispens of the Kings Estate, than
 only the maites to be delivered, & received, may dispense
 with his honor, & sacrifice his Agent as ywell; & ha-
 ve thankes to boot. *O tempora, & mores!* a blessed Go-
 vernement! *Megi de la, &c.* to the end of the chapter!
 Vvhyl so? vvhyl d'ont you complaine? Complaine!
 a noble employmēt to go crying cap in hand! &
 a great favor it is vvhile the Ministers heare you. But
 vvhyl did they revok me before they heard my rea-
 son? Is a man fit for my place, & not vvorthy to be
 heard before he be evnced out? Besides let them
 seek redress that vwant it; tis their concerne, & not
 mine. This vwant redress; for I doe not intend to
 stand for the place again, being no more vvorthy my
 while, as the Major hath made it. And if they finde
 no fault vwith, or know not how to finde out vwho
 is right, vwho is faulty, let them even smart for
 it. I am sure that as *ipsa sui praeium virtus*, so vice in
 ignorantētē proves alwayes the punisher & pu-
 nishment of the same. Yet I gave an account of all
 to both the Envys, Master Stanhope, & Monsieur de
 Schoneberg, at Madrid: both vwhich sear me vword
 again that it did not concerne them: If it did not con-
 cern them, vwho are employed & paid for minding
 of the Kings concern; & vwho were to assist me, ic
 blauv.

con-

concerned me as little. Perhaps I might have given an account also to the Earl of Nottingham, had I not perceived that he tooK it for granted that the things laid to my charge by Major Vvildmsh vvere true, & thereby shevved he had been prejudiced against me: and had I not Known that my letters vvere opened at the Post-house in London by Major Vvildman himself.

Vwhen I vvas out of Layle, I found it vvas Parker (vwho had made it his businss before to vwrite of me a thousand lies to one Gvvin, vwho runs vvit the Post office & Packer-boats at falmouth, that he might represent them through a magnifying glass to the Major, as he did) had contriv'd this treachery to the end I might doe some vhwarrantable things, vwhich theyvvere both ready to catch hold of against me. For that Escrivian himself vvhole paper I have torn, told me that he vvas ready to make us affidevit, that the said Captain had been notifyed three hours before, & that in Parkers own house; vwho tooK it as he is vdon't to take all other affronts: and that Parker call'd him vp from the Vvindow of that room vwhere vve vvere then at dinner. And other Spaniards told me, that vwhen I vvas in Layle he told them, vwhen he sawv them resolved to set me free, that seeing they had begun they ought to keep me in till orders came to clear me; for as their fault vwould

would not be the less for letting me out, so wwould not be the greater for Keeping me in till then. And when he was admitted to see me in the Castle, he aduised me to beg his Excellencyes pardon: wwhich I was so farr from, that I wwould not so much as speake to that Ouidor wwhich he lent to the Cistle to take my declaration. This is ParKers faire dealing by his ovvn Partner & friend, his manner of dischar- ging his trust, & of standing for the honor & priu-
lege of his ^{King} Country ! for wwhich & for other thin-
gs I parted wwith him presently after ^{these things} the vpon con-
ditions disaduantageous to me.

And after ourparting being desirous to give an account to ourfriends, I asked it of him. But being not able to get it in three moneths time, I was for-
ced at last to protest for want of it. And as soon as my protest had been notified to him, he went to the ViceKing wwith a memorial & petition against me, setting forth that I was running out of the Country, & was deeply in his debt. The ViceKing re-
mitting that paper or petition to his Assessor, a judge wwho was a friend of ParKer, he gaue him that very night an order to arrest me; wwhere vpon I was arrested at ParKers suit, & carryed at noon day by an algouazil through the tovn tovwards the Layles I meane the common jayle; but being in the way found meanes to get in the house of Master Iohn

Croeslen Consul of the Dutch nation; vvhile the King of great Britains Agent begg'd Sanctuary, & found it; a Consuls house affording him that shelter, vvhich vvas by Parke & the judge, denyed to him in his ~~owne~~ ^{owne} person: *tam vastè effrenata se jactat audacia;* vwhen Kings gouern not them selues, & faults are not punished. Being there I vrged & pressed for an account, vwhich he could not deny then, this last action of his ~~having~~ ^{having} a huge noise amongst all sorts of people in this toun; so vve came to an account before the said Consul, his brother, Master Stafford, Andrevv Hore, & Seuerall others both Dutch & Spaniards, and three of the Notaryes & Scrivans of this Country, vwho haue all set their hands to it, & giuen me besides a declaration of it; and he vvas found in my debt vpon five severall accounts for goods & money he had then of myne in cash; for vwhich money he begg'd of me to accept a bill of that same judge vwho had given the decree or order to arrest me; vwhich I accepted of; but that bill is not yet paid: And for the goods he ovves & is like to ovve me still, being not able to pay the fiftyeth part of his debts. This is notoriously Knownn, & declared & proved by the said Gentlemen & Scrivans, as above said.

The next Post or Packet boat after this, came to my hands Major Vvildmans last letter to me, vvhich

vvhich, thô it told me I should be revoAKed, vvas
 in termes as different from this precedent letter of
 complaints, as his of Iune the 10. vvas from that of
 May the 13. mention'd before: that is, very obli-
 ging. There he said, *all his credit & his interest at Court*
 (vvhich he vwould have me beleeve he had vs'd in
 my behalf) *was not able to protect me against the heavy*
complaints he said were made against me, for taring the
ViceKings letters, contemning of him & of his authority,
& the King of Spain himself, I assure you, saith he, it
vwas not in my povver to prevent it, meaning my Com-
mision being revoAKt. But as to any personal Kindness
lyes in ^{his} povver you shall alwyses command it. And at the
 very same time he vvrote quite contrary to ParKer,
 & promisd him the management of the mailes, thô
 he Knew him guilty of all the mis demeanours &
 faults mentioned before, & my greatest Ennemy;
 bidding him to Keep from me his said promise of
 the maile; lest perhaps my resentment of this vn-
 vorthy dealing should haue put me vpon doing
 vwhat I doe now, that is to say, declaring & maKing
 Knovvn our case. And by the next maile after he
 sent him the Kings vvarrant for my supersedeas; and
 his ovvn: vvhich vvas needless, because he had al-
 ready received my Commission or deputation from
 him, vvhich I had sent him back: but he vwould
 maKe that florish in recrimination of my slighting

his

his Patent or Commission, as he thought; and as he had plaid the King *in Expecting no more than the mailes delivered*, so he might ape him *in Kevvile* in issuing his vvarrant in forme, being copyed from the Kings vvarrant vword for vword. Vvwhich thing vwas never don yet in the Case of the Post patents or deputa-
tions.

Parker having *impunè* in fringed my priviledge, & being encouraged & backt by Major Vvildman, did not sticK (to vvrack his spleen vpon me) at invading the Kings jurisdiction & Prerogative it self, by bringing him before an inferior Court in Spain; vwhere the meanest Minister of the meanest Prince or state acKnowledgeth no other jurisdiction but his ovvn; for he, having received from Vvildman the Kings vvarrant for me to desist or cease to act further as Agent; in stead of bringing & delivering it me, according to the stylø, and tenor of those vvarrants, vwhich say, *upon the receipt of these you are to desist*, he sent an Escrivian of the said inferior Court & forrein jurisdiction vwith a copy of the same to notify it to me; & put the original in the said inferior Court vwhere it remaines to this day, for a record to all people that a great King of England hath implored the helpe of the said Escrivian and Court to make Known his vwill to one of his Ministers; that because the said vvarrant could not challenge obe-

obedience vwithout the interuention & povver of the said Court, the Escrivan should pass him a certificate of it, vwherevith he might go to lavy vwith ~~me~~ before the said Court. And now his Magesty is like to be vwell obeyed, vwithout question the said Court & Escrivan vwill right him. Yet, if I had not been so basely left in the lvrch, I had broken his pate to teach him to intermeddle betvveen the King of England & his Ministers abroad; vwho are to be sent for home & punished by himself if they be disobedient: thò vworthy Consul ParKer, vwho Kno- vves as much vwhat belongs to the right of nations & the duty of his place, as the svvine in the Pro-verbs 11-22. to the jevvell in his snout, deserves it better than he, for profaning his Kings name & signet at this rate, in maKing them rva a bout trougth the hands of those fellowves, vwho vvent vaporing vwith them, & maKing a rare shevv of his vwarrents & commands vwhich came to shelter them selves vnder their authority.

ParKer, the shame of Man Kinde! for he is made of nothing but falsehood and treachery; and falsehood is the thing man Kinde is most ashamed of (ta King it every vwhere for such shame & disgrace to be called a lyer or false that nothing but death, viz the death of him that gives the lye can blot that shame out) abominably false, impudently treacher

ous & perjured severall times ; famous in Galicia for it, for over reaching, & for getting in to debt & never paying any ; having neither heart to pay nor head pece to be a Knave ; a pusillanimous son vwho hath betryed the nation & pacKet boats priviledge & his oun more than six times, a disgrace to his pla-
ce, to the nation, & to trade ; having broke & run-
away from the Godyn two yeares before he got his
place of Consul, & is come to it again not to pay off
the old score, but to vse the priviledge of Consul to
Keep off suits & the jayle at the end on't, & to run
deeper in debt if he vvere not better known than
trusted in this country ; this ParKer, this same mons-
ter of a man, is let alone, he lives still, *immo vero* is set
vp in stead of ~~me~~, is Consul⁴ Post Master, is the right
worship full tool Major Vvildman hath chosen to
manage the PacKet boats, and preferr'd to one
vwho did offer fifty pounds a yeaer for the Portu-
guese letters ; and he, vwith Gvvin of Falmouth, ano-
ther foul beast of prey, both fit for the Majors turns,
that is, to doe any thing vwhich he shall put them
vpon, (as is the purloining of the goods in the
prizes) & take the blame vpon them ; are the two
Tyrants that drive on the vwhole concern.

And for their sake it is Major Vvildman contin-
ues the PacKet boats at falmouth, (vwhere there is
no freight for them, & vvhence they can not get
avvay

ayway vwith a south east vwind; y vhereas as is helved him, there is a great trade stirring y & freight therfore at Plymouth; and they may come out of that port vwith any vvinde; and come & return as soon from Plymouth as from Falmouth; besides the conueniency of coaches for passengers & of cheape conveyance for goods from London, Exon & other places thither.) And allowves the said Packer about fifty pounds a yeare besides the profit he makes of the Portuguese letters, when he might have that money, & haue fifty pounds besides paid before hand for the said letters, as I haue said. Because he hath so much like one of the Major Vworthies behaved himself against me & against the King himself (1) in purloining the mailes, & usurping the Postage from the Conde d'Onatte, contrary to my orders, & giving the false advise, vwhereby he spoild a helbusyness. (2) in bringing the King vnder the lash of a Spanish Courte. (3) in arresting this Agent in mid grace full mangers, & by a most scandalous & impudent false pretence, vwhen himself being Comisit ought to have stood agaist all others for his Priviledge, & renderid the Kings honor. (4) in suffering the Deputy Post master of the Groyn to come in to his owen house, & leize upon, & carry away the mailes as soon as they are brought there from on board the Packer boats. (5) in betrying twice the

Packer-

PacKet-boats privaldge, both times by delivering & suffering a Sergeant that was sent from the Vice-King to take & carry away without any resistance out of the said PacKet-boats two or three Irish, and one Portuguese, seamen; the first taken here on shoar, & the other on boord of a Portuguese Vessel, & sent prisoners by him on board of the PacKet-boats; thô he knew very well that the last was a Portuguese, & that the first did belong to a Dutch prize in this Port, All these things Major Vvildman not only knowes very well, for I haue advised him of them over & over, but, thô by one article of Par-Kers Deputation he is to forfeit his place & five hundred pounds besides if he shall be found guilty of unfaithfullness, he also countenanceth, & continueth him therein.

Thus ended my Agency; & with it the Treaty for settling this Post with Spain: for that Treaty is no more in the same condition or state as I came from Madrid. ~~Tempora mutantur; the~~ ^{left when} Spaniards were then willing, but now, having lost the hopes they had then to reduce France by the meanes of our King their minde is alterd within it; & will not easily be brought to break their commerce & correspondence through it, & to settle it our waye as they had certainly don, if the Major had, instead of getting me reyoaked, sent me money & orders to go again

again to Madrid & to finish the treaty ; for I might have been there before, & about that time that the nevves of the Kings success in Ireland arriv'd, & nicket that time & caught hold of that opportunity to conclude vpon such termes as they vvill not now yeeld to: that is, got of them money, & the northern mailes, vwhich (if the Spaniards broke off all correspondence through France , & vvould no more receive any mailes coming that vvay) the Dutch & other Nations of the North vvould be forced also to send our vvay; so that , as I vvrift often to Major Vvildman there vwas no need to spend money in sending Agents, as he did , to treat vwith them , & vwith the Prince of Taxis , the Post-master of Flanders. By vwhich meanes the nation & merchants had been vwell serv'd , the Kings designe effected , his ends ansver'd to the full , vwhereas on the contrary they are quite disappointed. For the french correspondence continues as formerly; no trade suffers by these nevv Packet-boats but our ovvn: for , not to mention the loss of severall of the mailes , our letters are longer a going this vvay to Cales & other Spanish places than they vvere by vvay of France , & than they are at this time going by vvay of Flanders; vwhereas the french letters go in a shorter space of time, & more safelie than ours ; the French are as much Masters of all the correspondence of other na-

concerning the designes of the French in their negotiations vwith Spaine as ever they vvere, because all the letters that are vwritten from Spaine to them, & England also, are by Conde d'Onatte sent them by the vway of France; & not by the Packet boats. A great deale of money hath been spent vwithout returns, & the Kings revenue vvaisted vpon Packet-boats vwhich could neither fight nor sayle (such vvas the Spanish Princes, vwhich Captain John Hutchins deliver'd vwithout fighting, to a french Privateer of about eighteen guns, for vwhich he hath been preferred to a very good newv one, bigger than the other two) & vwhich haye served hither to for little more than to set some on horseback, & to make them huff & strutt like a Signor Capitan, & take prizes, & share them vwith the Majors Deputy Post-maister, Gvvin of falmouth: vwho it seemes (vwith all ova[n]ce) hath made a shift to convert to the vse of, God Knovves vvhom, (not of the King, or seamen, vwho vvere promised their share, but haue seen nothing of it) five or six prizes counted vworth twelve thousand pounds. And at last to crowvn the vvorck, his Magesty vwill be forced, vwhen ever the peace is made betvveen Spain & France, to desist of this designe, & to send again through France his ovn Packets & letters: for vwithout doubt the french vwill make it one of their articles that the Spaniards shall admit of no English Packet-boats: for vwhich

most

most acceptable & pleasing piece of service he is as much beholding to his Post master general Major Vyldman as I for the Kindnesl & favor he hath shewyd me, because I told him truth, & gave him to understand I saw his nakednesl. A fool is alwayes a Knav; therefore vwhen you call him fool, bevvare of his Knavish trickes.

Thus, as in some other things, vve have in this made a pass at the french to no purpose: a great cry & little vvel for fevv Portuguese letters, vwhich is all the Packet boats carry from hence in their mailes, the merchants of Portugal alone being vwell ser-
ved of giving & contributing largely to encourage it, &c.
 ved, & reaping the benefit of this new vndertra-
 King: yet had the heart to complain vwhen I vwould
 make them pay the same rate for their letters as Conde d'Onatte takes of all the English in Spain: and the mercifull Major had that of admitting of their complaints against me; and to *Expect no more of them than of the Spaniards, that is, than their letters deliver'd & received,* altho he hath been offer'd fifty pounds a yeare for them. And this hath been his method for concluding & settling of this cōcern speedily. Yet for these condescensions & gratifications of his, see vwhat he hath got; Conde d'Onatte in stead of coming to terms vwith him, not only deteynes the mailes & sends them via Flanders, but hath since seized vpon, our mailes in Parkers house as soon as they

they are brought thither from the PaCket boats, & attempted, the same thing on the Portuguese letters, vwhich our *Bravo ParKer* vwill deliver him liKevvise as soon as he is sent to for the same in good earnest.

To conclude this long letter; don't you thinCK I must haue been much taKen vwith my place; & that I haue had a very brave time of it? The King & nation to serve at my oun costs & charges; all the business to drive on, & at the same time to contrive for other men; besides the labour & trouble of justifying, by leverall long letters (vwhich thing vvas more tyresome & grieveous than all the rest) my actions & contrivance; both calumnyes & complaints against me to ansver to; faults & errois to redress, the ViceKing, d'Onarte, Vvildman, PaKer, the Captains, the merchants in Portugal & in Spain vpon my bacK; in danger by the Spaniards, vwho haue threatned to Kill me, & by the French men of vvar, (vwhich, it seemes haue all orders to catch me, if they be able) & by the English them selves vwho, instead of bacKing me have fall'n foul of me at home. Mean vwhile if any profit offerd belonging to me the Captains got it from me; & every time they came I had fresh occasions of discontent & quarrells.

*Heu! que me tellus, aer, vel que aquora possunt
Accipere, aut quid iam misero mibi denique restat?
Cui neque apud Gallos vsquam locus: & saper ipsi*

Hif-

¶ Hispani infensi penas cum sanguine poscunt. ¶
¶ Vylst I am left in the lurch by ~~my~~ George & his party
¶ seru'd them so well
¶ yahut pietatis homos? vwho vwould be a Kings Ageng
or minister at this rate? ¶
¶ But o Lord, all is from thee: Kings & Princes
are nothing but insignificat Tools, dead instruments,
in thy hand: vwho liKe the covves that vwent on
vvith thy Ark against their vwill i. Sam. 6. 12. Doe
vndesig nedly, & vwill they nill they, dispense accord-
ing to thy pleasure their revvards & punishments;
often entertaining a snake in their ovvn bosom, &
often driving awy those vvhom they should enter-
tain. In the Kings mouth there is a Divine sentence, his
lips (right or vvrong) doe not transgress in judgement.
Prov. 16. 10. And this thing is befall'n me because
I could not rest contented vvith thy service, but must
haue other Masters, & liKe the old Israel, go a vvo^r
ring after other Kings besides thy self, & looK for a
fortune at their hands, & not from thee, vvhose bles-
sing alone makes rich, & addes no sorrow vvhith it. ch.
10. 22. Therefore, tho the silly vworld, vvhich neves
in their life judge a righteous judgement, but judge
only according to the outward appearance, &
looKt vpon me as made vwhen I had got my place,
looKs vpon me as vndon because I haue lost it; to
vwas thy blessing, o Lord, to deliuer me from it; &
vvith it of all the troubles that did accompany it.

that I might return in good time to thy service, &
 depend on thee alone from whom comes all our
 good. Therefore avay vwith my places to free my
 self all at once, avay vwith my Commission. *Nunc effe pius*, that is, too true to my trust. If
 I had not been so, I might haue kept my places but
 for vhat? marke the end on't: to purchase sorrow
 & trouble, & to lose it vwith disgrace as Major
 Vividman vwill doe. *Yet my son, be not righteous over*
much, saith Solomon. Eccl. 7. 17. Vriah lost his life,
 and I my place by it. A difference betwixen vs is
 that there was a great King took notice of vhat
 he did; but in my case there is one vwho takes notice
 of vhat they tell him of me. O Pharaon, &
 O Iethro! vwhy? Pharaon was a great King, & Iethro
 was a great Prince: as soon as they heard Isiophi
 Gen. 41. 38. 40. And Moses, Exod. 2. 21. they knew
 their men; & vvere blessed, one vwith a faithfull Mi-
 nister of state, the other vwith such son in law as
 Moses, because they knew them vnder their clouds,
 & vvere not offended at them for their misery. Math.
 12. 6. And I tell thee, Pharaon, that thou didst save
 thy country, because thou wwest a great King: &
 thou wwest great, because vwise, (vnderstanding in
 treaing & examining thy self, the men fitt for thy
 busyness) for it is vvisdom makes great. *L'homme*
qui grand qu'aurant que sait, & quand il sait il peut
tout.

text. Saith the late Oracle of Spain, one Baltazar Gracién. Neither slashing & cutting, & playing the Orlando furioso in a battle, but vvisdom maKes a King great & dread full & absolute. 1. King. 3. 28. *By me, faith, Vvisdom, Kings reign.* Prov. 8. 13. get King-domes & preserue them. For to be a good souldier signifyes no more in Kings tovvards preseruing of them than svviming vwell signifyes in the Pilot of a ship overtaken by a storm in the midst of a broad sea, vwho cannot by svvimming save either the ship or himself. Indeed in a Commander, vwho vwith a little money & fevv men, as Scanderbeg, doth great things, it signifyes tovvards getting a King-dom, but ayales little or nothing tovvards the Keeping of it, & maKing him a great King, vwithout Knovvledge & vvisdom. *Give me vvisdom,* saith David, Psal. 119. 144. *And I shall live, & reign.* Vvisdom is the thing that maKes a King like the Almighty. *ceuloy*

Cest la, Jaques, cest la cequ'il fait vn grand Roy!

Mais de ces grands Rois la en est il sur la terre?

O trop heureux François il nen est que pour toy.

Let me add this thing, Pharaos, that it is not vvisely done, but a pity full thing & the vway to destruction, because upon righteou/ness the throne is established. Prov. 7. 16. vwhen a subiect that doth ill is permitted to opprest his other fellow subiects because they made their busness. But if thou vvert yet above thou vwill violay

dit hag the chief Baker, & restore the chief Buttler, & prefer Ioseph again; because thou vvert a great King, & Knewv howv to doe justice, both in its punitive & remunerative part. But alass! thou art no more, *surdus cano fabulam*: thy spirit & thy vvisdom in their vway from Egypt to England vvere stopt in France, vwhere they make good vse of them. Is a man fitt for my place, & not vworthy to be heard before he be turn'd out? Turning out & turning in hath turn'd the ship vp side dovvn; and vwhen she is overset all those that belong to her endeavour to helpe them selves; many others are in hope to fish in troubled vwaters, but very few are those vwho goe about to help her. If I haue don my part tovwards it let others judge: and that you may judge your self, I send you this account, vwhich I conclude here by being.

Oliver Hill to Sir.

Coruña the 30. of December 1690.

Your very humble seruant:

Oliver Hill.

POST CRIP T. *FINIS coronat opus.* Whilst this letter was printing, Parker, to crowne the yvorye, hath most magnanimously surrendered at first onset the Portuguese flotte also to the Conde d'Onate, vwho tho no great warrior, hath got a full victory.

victory thereby over the English: the Post-master of this place having seized vpon it in Consul Parkers ovn house, & carried it avway by virtue of an order, not of the King, or Vice King vwho is ovr lonely judge, but of the Fiscal, vwho hath no povver over strangers, much less over a Consul & Post-master from England, & to vwhose order therefore Parker might chuse to obey: especially in this case, & besides in his ovn house, vwhere by the articles of peace no judge, nay & not our Judge Conservator himself, hath any jurisdiction. And Master Parker fairly, vwithout expecting orders, & vwithout making the least offer of opposition, suffer'd it to be taken & carried avway from him: thus renouning by this act to all his priviledges as Englishman, as Consul, as Post-master from England, and betrying the Kings right, vwhich he vvas entrusted vwith to improve & to maintain (as by one of the articles of his Deputation he is on the forfeiture of 500. pounds ster-ling obliged to doe) & himself most vretchedly; turning himself out of place by parting in this manner vwith the only remaining fragment of our vrack, vwhich made him a Post-master, & Kept together the soul & body of this designe, vwhich hath yeelded vp the ghost vwith Parkers Post-mastership by this last provess of his. He might, even thô the Post master had come vwith orders from the King or Vice King, haue

have ansuver'd that he could not give it him wwithout orders, & have lockt it vp, & said vwho daros break open my door? in vwhich case it could have come but to a suit at law before the King & Coun-cel; vwherein he might have been bacKt & assisted from England; Conde d'Onattes trickes made out; & his title to our Portuguese maile tryed; & our grant from the King & Council of State of Spaine; first for all the Northern mailes, & since for the English maile (made to vs on the account of the publicK interest, & not out of merce, as to Conde d'Onatte) might have been oppos'd to his: during vwhich dependency Par-Ker might haue remained vwith all the Portuguese mailes: & reaped the aduantage accrevving by the postage of letters, & the credit & acquaintance the pover of disposing of them brings. But *the wicKed fleeth, saith one, vwhen no man doth pursue him, & Knowes not at vwhat he stumbles.* He that never appeared but in vnder hand dealings, & base trickes & treacheryes, is not capable of going through any difficulty, *his stren-gth is small, his heart failes & melts in such occasions,* Prov. 24. 10. *The shaKing of aleaf, the big looKs of any man, & the least shevv of danger daunts him, makes him quake & tremble* Levit. 26-36. Deut. 28. 65. he is not fitt to appeare for his King & his country: therefor-e such vvere disbanded vwhen a battle vvas to be fought Deut. 20-8. But such one vvas taKen by Vvild-man for his champion, vwhen by ParKers ovvn letters

& by those of other men, vwhich I have sent to him
 he did Knovv him to be such: so eager he shewved
 himself in nettling & vexing me, that he vwould set
 vp Parker in opposition to me.
 And so hasty he vvas to be revéged of me for seeing,
 & shewving him I savv his naKedness, that his haste
 to see me out made him minde no other thing than
 the meanes to effect it; & lose, for vwant of a King,
 even the most material & chief things of the concern,
 vwhich he might easily had if he had demanded them
 to vvitt the vwhole northern maile (seeing he relin-
 quished & yeelded vp all that I demanded vvith it, &
 it had been promised & granted vs already) or at least
 the English maile, seeing Onatte cannot vvarrant the
 Keeping of it, & gives no other reason for sending it
 through Flanders, but that I am no more in Madrid
 to receive it, & that his orders vvere not to forwvard
 it to the Groyn: his laid precipitation not permitting
 him to make agreements, & to provide things fit &
 necessary. I could not but beleeve, vwhen I vvas re-
 voAKed, that he had adjusted vwithout me vvith Ona-
 tte, & provided some body to receive the maile from
 him, or made him promise to sed himself the said maile
 hither. But nothing att all vvas don; & Onatte tat
 King all the advantages he could, things are since go-
 ne vvorle & vvorle, till nowv that both the Spanish &
 the Portuguese letters have at last been vvrested
 out of the hands of his champion: by him vwho

thought in my time he did enough to put by the thind-
 ts I made at him; & had not then the least thoughts
 of making these thrusts at vs. Onely some newt Par-
 tKer-boats, to mount vp. Hutchins again, vwho lost
 the Spanish Princess, vvere provided in her roome; &
 to make amends for that vwhich he had given awaie,
 orders vvere sent to Falmouth that all the letters from
 hence to that place (vwhich are never more than four
 or five) should go to London before they be distribu-
 ted there, lest the office should be cheated of the port
 of some. A great piece of providence, to have it at the
 spicker, & let out at the bung hole, like all the losing
 gamesters, & of righteousness also, to give awaie to
 the rich & to make the poor pay for it. *Prov. 12. 16.* by
 reason of the delays, prejudiciable to them, this order
 occasioneth. He had don better to take the 50. pounds
 a yeare for the Portuguese letters vwhich vvere offerd
 him by one vwho Knewv hovv to keep them from the
 hands of Onate, & to get money by them: for, nowv
 that they are many, they might, at the same rate as the
 Spanish letters pay, yeeld one time vwith another one
 hundred milreys a moneth, or foyr hundred a yeare; all the
 charge for conveying of them forwards & backvwards being
 not foyr score pounds. This Conde d'Onate hath got & the
 English lost by Major Vvildmans conduct & by the Consul Par-
 Kers vwith magnanimity. Thus the tyde runs against vs in
 this & in other things it is our turn to lose, even vwith those
 vwho vle to have vvorste lvtK than vve had: & it seemes it is
 the turn of our Politick noddles to be outvittted by those
 vwho are no great Conuers. *Non est qui hasteret legi-
 condum etiam inter omnes fieri quod genit-
 & nutrit. Lament. Es. 31. 18.*

